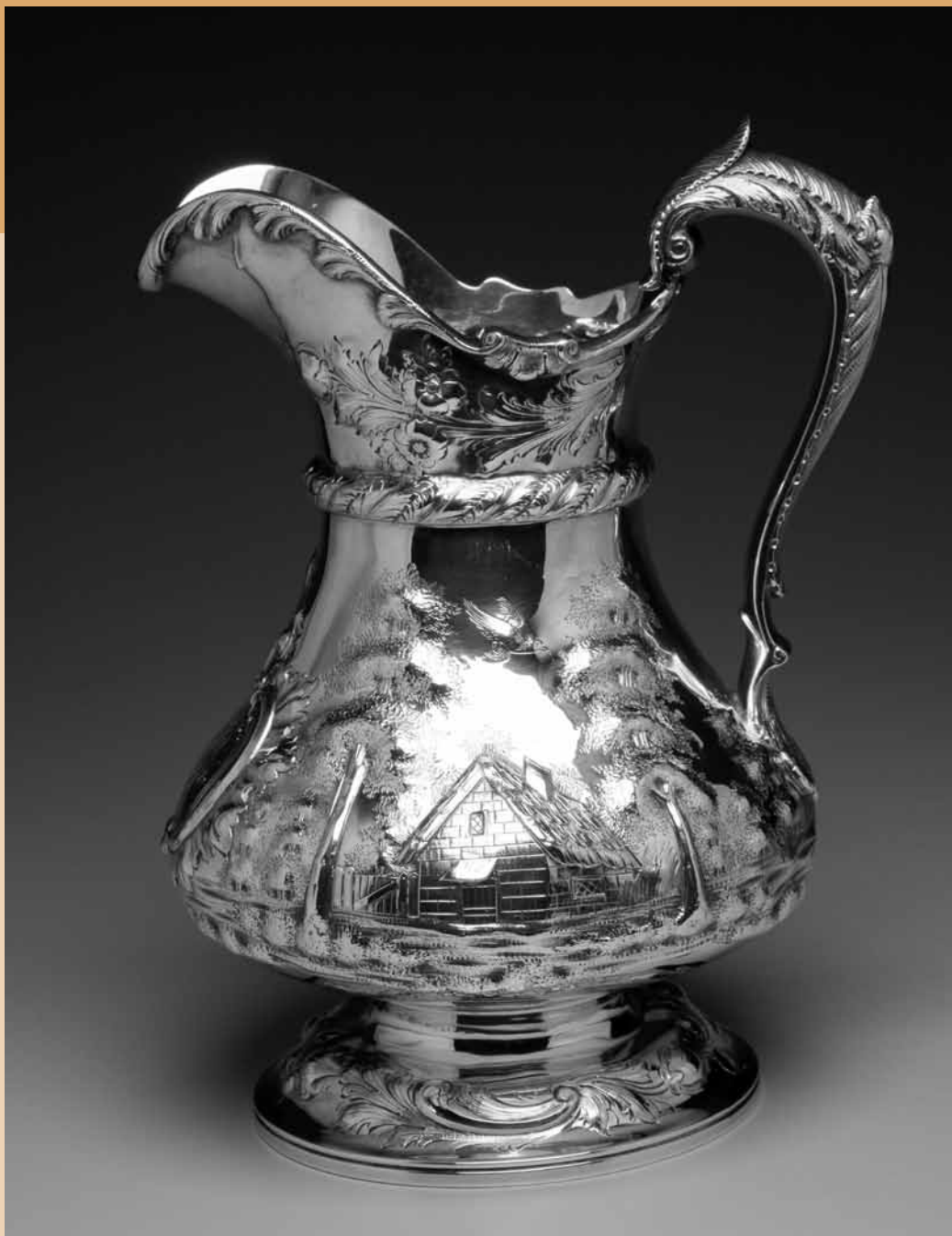


BALL  
STATE

MUSEUM  
OF ART



*Water Pitcher, 1901*  
Gorham Manufacturing Company  
Lent from the collection of  
Don and Lois Norris  
On view in  
*Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years*

FALL 2011 VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 1

ARTwords



# FROM *the* DIRECTOR...



In September 2009, the Ball State University Board of Trustees approved an amended *Collection Management Policy* for the Museum of Art. This document is among a number that were submitted to the Accreditation Commission of the American Association of Museums to determine if the museum is upholding the best practices of the profession. In March 2011, the museum received an unqualified accreditation for the fourth consecutive time.

A part of the *Collection Management Policy* is the practice of how works of art enter into and, conversely, how they may be alienated from, the collection. Realizing that the footprint of the museum is now established in the Fine Arts building for the foreseeable future, it is clear that the collection cannot sustain uncontrolled growth. Even as the collection grows qualitatively through gifts and purchases, eliminating those parts of the

collection that do not contribute to that high standard has become imperative. Over the past two years, we have begun reviewing the collection and have found many items that qualify for deaccessioning and sale. These works have been reviewed by the acquisitions committee and, where necessary, outside expertise has been engaged to review the recommendations of the museum staff.

This spring, 25 paintings identified as the property of the Ball State University Museum of Art were sold at public auction in New York. Many of these paintings were portraits of the British School. The funds are segregated to acquire new works of art that will bear the credit line of the original donor (in this case, Frank C. Ball) by exchange.

Culmination of a long search for a fine British portrait coincided with the sale of the deaccessioned paintings from the Frank C. Ball collection. A late-eighteenth century portrait of exceptional quality appeared on the market and the museum successfully acquired the *Portrait of Francis Basset* (1757-1835) by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Basset commissioned his three-quarter-length portrait and had it delivered as a gift to his friend George Woodroffe at King's College, Cambridge University, 1777. Basset, who posed in his academic regalia worn over a red suit, was about to set off on his grand tour, an extended trip through Europe that was an essential part of an English gentleman's education. While he was in Rome the next year, he was painted by Pompeo Batoni. That full-length portrait ended up in the collection of the King of Spain and can be seen in the Prado Museum in Madrid.

– Peter F. Blume

Ball State University Museum of Art  
Serving East Central Indiana since 1936

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On view September 16 - November 27, 2011

# GORHAM 1880-1920

## *The Glory Years*



The ways in which economic and social influences can become tangible are on display in the latest Ball State University Museum of Art exhibition, *Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years*. This decorative arts collection of silver flatware and hollowware was assembled by Don and Lois Norris.

Gorham was founded in 1831 in Providence, Rhode Island, and by the late nineteenth century dominated American silver manufacturing.

"The dates correspond with the blossoming of a robust, post-Civil War American domesticity," says Director Peter Blume.

Americans purchased increasing amounts of silverware during the late nineteenth century, and while economic conditions making silver more affordable were partially behind this increase in consumption, social influences played as great a role in the purchase of silver serving pieces as did any increase in buying power.

"The arts came to occupy a more important place in American life at the turn of the century," says Blume. "There is a correspondence to the best American paintings at this time reflected in this silver, and Gorham was probably the best, most innovative manufacturer of the era."

The positive artistic and moral associations given to silver encouraged Americans to buy it, furnish their dining rooms with it, and bring the arts into their homes. This was the era of the Cult of Domesticity, a time when the man's world of commerce and trade was left at the threshold, allowing the home to become a haven of culture and education. Amid this, the dining room became a social arena, the site of social interaction for the family and a place to display one's refinement and good manners.



*Centerpiece Bowl, 1893*  
Gorham Manufacturing Company  
Lent from the collection of Don and Lois Norris  
On view in *Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years*.



*Repoussé Tray, 1900*  
Gorham Manufacturing Company  
Lent from the collection of Don and Lois Norris  
On view in *Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years*.





# CALENDAR *of* EVENTS *fall*

FALL SEMESTER FRIDAYS • 3:00 pm

## *Meditation in the Museum*

The Museum of Art offers a dedicated calm and quiet space every Friday throughout the semester from 3 to 4:30 pm near the Amida Buddha on the balcony. This self-directed experience is a wonderful way to start your weekend. You can find free **downloadable relaxation MP3s for your computer, IPOD or other devices** at: [www.bsu.edu/workingwell](http://www.bsu.edu/workingwell) under the Health Information and Relax sections.

NOTE: Occasional evening events will limit access.

In partnership with Ball State University Working Well

## *Sketching in the Museum*

Drop in and sketch at the Museum of Art! Try drawing different works of art in our galleries. All students, faculty and community members are invited. Ball State University Fine Arts League members provide support on Fridays at 3 pm as available. A limited number of large drawing boards, plus stools and pencils are provided. Visitors are welcome to sketch at other times, too.

In partnership with the BSU Fine Arts League and Art Department.

## SEPTEMBER

5 MONDAY

*Museum closed for Labor Day Holiday*

14 WEDNESDAY • Noon

*Alliance Luncheon & Program\**

*Aspects of American Paintings from the 1970s.*

On the heels of the exhibition closing, Director Peter Blume provides a special overview of the Ball State University Museum of Art's summer exhibition featuring paintings by Joan Snyder (*To Grow*, 1973), Christina Ramberg (*Schizophrenic Discovery*, 1977), and more. *Brown Study Room*

*Prospective Alliance members free;*

*Alliance members \$10 plus \$5 for lunch.\**

15 THURSDAY • 5:00 - 7:00 pm

*Exhibition Preview:*

*Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years*

*Hans Breder's Weisse Tasse*

Enjoy a sneak peak at two exhibitions—the silver hollowware and flatware drawn from the collection of Don and Lois Norris, and video art in the new media room.

The new media room will feature Hans Breder's "Weisse Tasse" (White Cup).

In conjunction with Family Weekend Friday, September 23 through Sunday, September 25, the Ball State University Museum of Art offers the following programs.

24 SATURDAY • 2:30 pm

*Tour Time: The Collectors\*\**

Explore Ball State University and Muncie history with a docent as you learn about the great collectors and donors who shaped the museum. *Meet in Sculpture Court*

25 SUNDAY • 2:30 pm

*First person: Aurora Robson*

The artist behind *Be Like Water* (2011), Aurora Robson, explains the popular sculptural installation and answers visitors' questions via video conference.

*Brown Study Room*

## OCTOBER

9 SUNDAY • 2:30 pm

In conjunction with Homecoming, the Museum of Art offers:

*Expert Art: Silver for Serving and Art*

Professors Pat Nelson (Art) and Deanna Pucciarelli (Family and Consumer Science) cast a careful eye over the inventive hollowware and flatware in the exhibition *Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years*.

*Meet in Sculpture Court*

11 TUESDAY • Noon

*Art at High Noon: Coins and Medals\*\**

View selections from the coins and medals with a docent.

*Meet in Sculpture Court*

12 WEDNESDAY • Noon

*Alliance Luncheon & Program\**

*Gorham's Glory Years*

Former Indianapolis Museum of Art curator of decorative arts, and now of Solomon / Jones Antiques and Interiors, Ben Solomon presents about Gorham silver and leads a tour of highlights of *Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years*. *Brown Study Room*

*Prospective Alliance members free;*

*Alliance members \$10 plus \$5 for lunch.\**

23 SUNDAY • 2:30 pm

*Ball State University Museum of Art Book Club:*

*Lee Krasner A Biography View*

In preparation for Gail Levin's lecture on October 28, a new museum book group has formed. Readers are invited to discuss Levin's book with Donna Browne, Grants Administrator, Muncie Public Library, and Tania Said, Curator of Education, Ball State University Museum of Art. *Brown Study Room*

"This biography crackles with juicy behind-the-scenes stories of America's rarefied mid-century art world, showcasing the genius of the preternaturally gifted Krasner." (*Publisher's Weekly*)

The book is for sale at the Ball State bookstore (\$30).

A limited number of copies are available to borrow from Bracken Library and the Muncie Public Library.

*In collaboration with the Muncie Public Library*

25 TUESDAY • Noon

*Art at High Noon: Glass Then and Now\*\**

View selections from the ancient, modern, and contemporary glass collection with a docent. *Meet in Sculpture Court*

*October continues*



Coffee Pot, 1881  
Gorham  
Manufacturing Company  
Lent from the collection  
of Don and Lois Norris  
On view in  
Gorham 1880-1910:  
The Glory Years.

# CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

## fall



## OCTOBER *continued*

**28 FRIDAY • 5 pm**

### **Petty Memorial Lecture: Lee Krasner A Biography**

Gail Levin, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Art History and American Studies, Baruch College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York

"Writing with a novelist's flair for characterization and scene-setting, the author traces Krasner's life...While Krasner's artistic genius was temporarily blunted by her marriage, Levin proves she was a phenomenal artist in her own right who was exhausted by having to manage (her artist husband Jackson) Pollock's personal and artistic life..." (*Publisher's Weekly*)

*Lecture is free and open to the public; a book signing follows the program. Books will be available for advance and on-site purchase.*

*Dinner following the book signing is \$40 for Friends members, \$48 for non-members. Fine Arts Building, Recital Hall, AR 217*

**29 SATURDAY • 2:30 pm**

### **Tour Time: The Collectors\*\***

Explore Ball State University and Muncie history with a docent as you learn about the great collectors and donors who shaped the museum. *Meet in Sculpture Court*

## NOVEMBER

**8 TUESDAY • Noon**

### **Art at High Noon: Coins and Medals\*\***

View Leon Polk Smith's *Untitled* and a related work with a docent. Polk Smith's painting shows a debt to Piet Mondrian and the non-representational form Mondrian termed Neoplasticism. *Meet in Sculpture Court*

**9 WEDNESDAY • Noon**

### **Alliance Luncheon & Program: Aquatints\***

Professor Sarojini Johnson (BSU Art) discusses aquatints. *Brown Study Room*

*Prospective Alliance members free;*

*Alliance members \$10 plus \$5 for lunch. \**

**19 SATURDAY • 2:30 pm**

### **Tour Time: The Collectors\*\***

Explore Ball State University and Muncie history with a docent as you learn about the great collectors and donors who shaped the museum. *Meet in Sculpture Court*

**22 TUESDAY • Noon**

### **Art at High Noon: Silver Delights\*\***

View silver serving and flatware in *Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years* from the collection of Don and Lois Norris with a docent. *Meet in Sculpture Court*

**24-25 THURSDAY & FRIDAY**

### **Museum closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**

**27 SUNDAY**

### **Exhibitions Close:**

**Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years**

**Hans Breder's *Weisse Tasse***

**Aurora Robson: *Be Like Water***

## DECEMBER

**4 SUNDAY • 2:30 pm**

### **Student Showcase: History and Art**

In association with Freshman Connections, selected students from Dr. Abel Alves' HIST 150 class will present their papers about various works of art from the BSUMA collection. *Brown Study Room*

**6 TUESDAY • Noon**

### **Art at High Noon: Christ Represented\*\***

View and compare the new *Christ the Redeemer* (1550) by Giovanni Angelo Montorsoli (1499-1563) with the Catalan *Christ* (1250) sculpture with a docent.

*Meet in Sculpture Court*

**9 FRIDAY • 5 pm**

### **Friday with Friends: Museum Renovation**

Ball State University Museum of Art members and non-members gather to celebrate the season and view renovation plans.

**11 SUNDAY • 2:30 pm**

### **Reel Time: Wasteland**

The film follows renowned artist Vik Muniz as he journeys from his home base in Brooklyn to his native Brazil and the world's largest garbage dump, Jardim Gramacho, located on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. Muniz is represented in the Ball State University Museum of Art collection with *Seville Orange*, *Silver Goblet*, *Apples*, *Pear*, and *Two Bottles, After Chardin*. (99 minutes, 2011) *Brown Study Room*

**14 WEDNESDAY • Noon**

### **Alliance Luncheon & Program: Public Art, Progress, and 1930s America\***

Dr. Lara Kuykendall, assistant professor of art history, discusses an important period when the Ball State University Museum of Art was founded. *Brown Study Room*

*Prospective Alliance members free;*

*Alliance members \$10 plus \$5 for lunch. \*t*

**24-25 THURSDAY & FRIDAY**

### **Museum closed for Christmas Holiday**

*All programs are free unless otherwise noted.*

*Programs are subject to change without notice.*

*\*The cost to join the Ball State University Museum of Art Alliance is \$15 for Friends members, and starts at \$40 for non-members. Please call (765) 285-5270 for additional information.*

*\*\*Drop-in tours, including Art High at Noon and Tour Time, are limited to 15 people. Tour sign-up may be required to accommodate visitors. We thank you for your understanding.*

*All tours and public programs, except for exhibition previews and Friday with Friends, are eligible for participation in the Art Card, a frequent visitor and free gift program.*

*Please call (765) 285-5242 for additional information.*



ABOVE:

*Star*

1977

Robert Cottingham

Etching and aquatint

Purchase:

Friends of the Museum

*Peasant in the Cabbage Patch*  
1885

Camille Pissarro

Aquatint

Museum purchase





On view through November 27, 2011

## AURORA ROBSON

### *Be Like Water*



*Be Like Water*, 2011

Aurora Robson

Discarded plastic water  
bottles

Lent by the Artist

On view in Sculpture Court

Visitors to the Ball State University Museum of Art need only look up to be enchanted by Aurora Robson's *Be Like Water*, the installation hanging from the skylight in the museum's sculpture court. A slight breeze might animate the hundreds of sculpted elements, making them come alive, while a passing cloud may shift the light, bringing a new perspective to the seascape floating in midair above the museum floor.

*Be Like Water* is made from thousands of reclaimed plastic bottles. Even the threads from which the individual sculptures hang were carefully cut from bottles pulled from the waste stream. "She has a true eco-sensitivity, and her work helps us better understand there is no such thing as disposable," says Director Peter Blume.

Robson has said she feels more comfortable transforming found objects into works of art instead of producing art from entirely new materials. To this end, she works with plastic bottles, junk mail, and other reclaimed materials to make her sculptures.

In late 2009, Robson founded Project Vortex, an international coalition of artists and others committed to salvaging and transforming

debris from the oceans into works of art and design. The group's mission is to re-use and transform plastic debris as it is removed from oceans and shorelines to ensure it never re-enters the waste stream.

Robson was born in Toronto, grew up in Hawaii, and has lived in New York City for the last 20 years. Her work is exhibited across the United States. She is a recipient of the Pollock Krasner Grant, the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Sculpture, and an Arthur Levine Foundation Grant.



*Felicite Sleeping with Parrot*, 1974, David Hockney, aquatint  
Purchase: Friends of the Museum

On view through November 27, 2011

## AQUATINT

### *A Selection from the Museum's Collection*

Aquatint is a printing technique that can duplicate the tonal freshness of a drawing or watercolor.

Although invented earlier, Aquatint was codified by French printmakers in the mid-eighteenth century and used extensively by some of the most inventive artists from the nineteenth century through today.

Among the artists included in this selection are works by Le Prince, Boucher, Goya, Picasso, and contemporary artists Paula Rego, and Kiki Smith.



Gail Levin

Friday, October 28 2011

## GAIL LEVIN *to* PRESENT *Edmund F. Petty Memorial Lecture*

Gail Levin, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Art History and American Studies, Baruch College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York, will present the annual Edmund F. Petty Memorial Lecture, titled *Lee Krasner A Biography*, at 5 pm, October 28, at the museum. Levin's book will be available for advance and on-site purchase.

A book-signing will follow the lecture.

"Krasner, among others, was there at the moment of Abstract Expressionism, but she was frozen out of the boys' club," says Director Peter Blume. "It was an especially selfish time, an especially misogynistic one, and women were treated very badly in the art world."

Blume says Levin's book is an important contribution because it sets the record straight.

Levin traces Krasner's life through the Great Depression to the world of art and leftist politics of New York City in the '30s and '40s.

*Make reservations for an elegant dinner with Levin following the lecture;  
\$40 for Friends members, \$48 for non-members.*

*Visit [www.bsu.edu/museum](http://www.bsu.edu/museum) or call 765.285.5242 for more information.*

### *Recent Aquisition*

## SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS *Portrait of Francis Basset*

The Ball State University Museum of Art recently purchased the *Portrait of Francis Basset* (1757-1835) by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The acquisition was made possible by the sale of several other English paintings from the collection.

"This acquisition gives the collection a very good English portrait from the eighteenth century to counterbalance a superb collection of eighteenth century French paintings," says Director Peter Blume.

Reynolds specialized in portraits, particularly of the English aristocracy, and promoted the Grand Style in painting. He was one of the founders of the Royal Academy, and its first president.

"This painting captures the best moment of a particularly prolific artist," says Blume.

Francis Basset was an English nobleman and politician. The portrait is one in a series for which Basset sat. The three-quarter-length portrait is of Basset in his undergraduate regalia as he leaves Kings College, Cambridge University, in 1777, for a grand tour of Europe. An earlier portrait portrayed him as he left Eton College. While he was on his grand tour, he was painted by Pompeo Batoni. That portrait can be seen in the Prado Museum in Madrid.

"Essentially, this is an English aristocrat who is recording his life on canvas," says Blume.



*Portrait of Francis Basset, 1777*  
Sir Joshua Reynolds, Oil on canvas  
Purchase: Frank C. Ball Collection,  
gift of the Ball Brothers Foundation  
by exchange, and  
gift of David T. Owsley  
via the Alconda-Owsley Foundation





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MUSEUM HOURS

Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday  
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

765.285.5242

FREE ADMISSION

[www.bsu.edu/artmuseum](http://www.bsu.edu/artmuseum)

Parking in the  
McKinley Ave. garage  
between Riverside Ave.  
& University Ave.

a newsletter for the friends of

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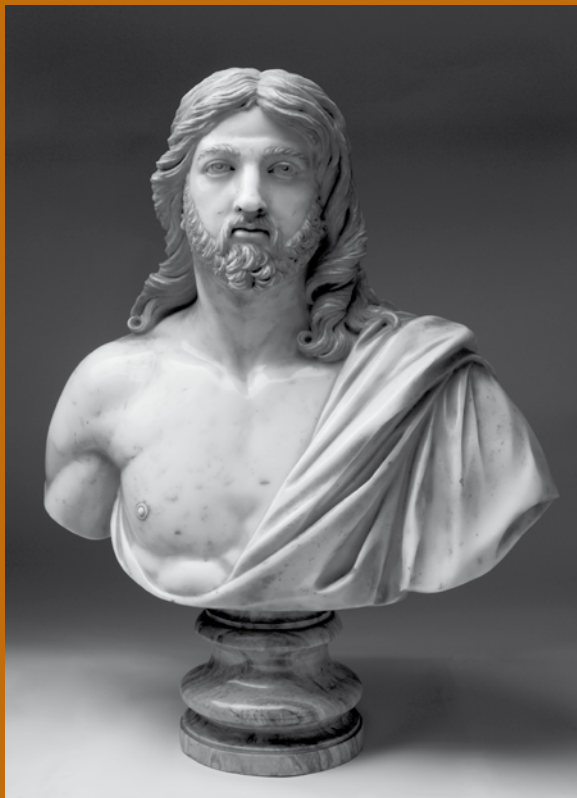
**MUSEUM  
OF ART**

Muncie, IN 47306

## *in this* ISSUE

In this issue we take a fresh look at things related to hearth and home. Aurora Robson's *Be Like Water* takes the homely plastic bottle and makes a profound artistic (and ecological) statement. *Gorham 1880-1910: The Glory Years* demonstrates that silverware isn't just about forks and knives. And Gail Levin gives this year's Petty Lecture, presenting artist Lee Krasner as so much more than Mrs. Jackson Pollack.

PLUS...Notes from the Director, our Calendar of Events, and much more.



*Christ the Redeemer Depicted as Zeus*, about 1550,  
Giovanni Angelo Montorsoli, marble and stone carving.  
Lent by David T. Owsley

**BALL  
STATE**

**MUSEUM  
OF ART**

## NEW IN THE GALLERIES... GIOVANNI MONTORSOLI *Christ the Redeemer*

*Christ the Redeemer* is a mid-sixteenth century marble bust by Italian sculptor Giovanni Montorsoli (1507-1563). Montorsoli chose to depict Christ in the manner of Zeus Serapis, an anthropomorphic god created by the Greek pharaoh Ptolemy I and named the official god of Egypt and Greece in hopes of unifying the two peoples. Here, Christ has the long, wavy hair and full beard, full lips, and muscular physique common in the images of Zeus Serapis.

While Montorsoli left major monuments from Cicily to Genoa, most people know little about him.

"He's interesting because he has been largely ignored," says Director Peter Blume. "He's been lost, yet he was one of the principle carvers assisting Michelangelo on the Medici tomb.